

Validation of the Name *Asparagus kansuensis* (Asparagaceae)

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ABSTRACT. The species *Asparagus kansuensis* F. T. Wang & T. Tang ex S. C. Chen (Asparagaceae) from China was invalidly published in 1978, because two types were simultaneously indicated. The plant name is validly published here, but otherwise refers to the 1978 diagnosis. Thus, the original ascription to authors is kept.

Key words: Asparagaceae, *Asparagus*, China.

Asparagus kansuensis F. T. Wang & T. Tang ex S. C. Chen is a dioecious species in the family Asparagaceae. The describing author designated a mixed collection of both staminate and pistillate plants from obviously separate gatherings as the type, *K. S. Hao 416* (Chen, 1978). We examined specimens cited by Chen as type and found three sheets at PE, all attributed to the type collection *K. S. Hao 416*. One of these sheets indicated as *typus* included two gatherings, represented by one staminate plant and one pistillate plant on a single herbarium sheet (Fig. 1). This specimen exactly corresponds to the illustration in Chen (1978). The other sheets collected as *K. S. Hao 416* consist of only pistillate plants. Therefore, the publication of the name *A. kansuensis* was invalid, because at least two gatherings from different plants are represented by *Hao 416* and these separate specimens were simultaneously indicated as type (Chen, 1978). Thus, this species requires validation now, by indicating a single gathering as the holotype, in accordance with Articles 37.1, 37.2, 8.1, and 8.2 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (McNeill et al., 2006). The mixed gathering cannot be selected as lectotype, viz. Articles 9.2 and 9.15, or regarded as syntypic (Art. 9.4).

Without consideration of the validity of the name, Chen and Tamanian (2000) accepted *Asparagus kansuensis* for their treatment in volume 24 of the *Flora of China*, not realizing that the type collection was a mixed gathering. The current paper validates

this name by reference to the Latin diagnoses in the original publication and by indicating one of the mixed specimens (the staminate element for the dioecious plants) as the holotype. The correct authorship of this name remains F. T. Wang & T. Tang ex S. C. Chen because both the plant name and the validating diagnosis for this species may be ascribed to them, according to Article 46.2 of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (McNeill et al., 2006).

Asparagus kansuensis F. T. Wang & T. Tang ex S. C. Chen, sp. nov. *Asparagus kansuensis* F. T. Wang & T. Tang ex S. C. Chen, Acta Phytotax. Sin. 16(1): 94, nom. inval. TYPE: China. Gansu: Wenxian, 910 m, 15 June 1930 (♂ fl.), *K. S. Hao 416a* (holotype, PE 00034519).

Discussion. The validating diagnosis appeared in Chen (1978: 94).

Paratypes. CHINA. **Gansu:** Wenxian, 910 m, 15 June 1930 (♀), *K. S. Hao 416b* (PE 00034519), (♀), *K. S. Hao 416c* (PE 00218312), (♀), *K. S. Hao 416d* (PE 00218311); Wenxian, (♀), *Z. Y. Zhang 7085* (PE).

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Figure 1. Photograph of the type of *Asparagus kansuensis* F. T. Wang & T. Tang ex S. C. Chen (K. S. Hao 416a [♂]). The holotype is represented by the staminate plant at the bottom of the sheet. The pistillate plant above represents Hao 416b (♀), here regarded as a paratype.